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Letter dated 6 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a communiqué issued by my Government last Friday (see annex).

We request that the present letter and the communiqué be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stanislas **Kamanzi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 6 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda has learned with surprise of the declaration by the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo calling on all Congolese to mobilize inter alia to fight a Rwandan invasion on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Government wishes to make the following observations.

1. There are currently no Rwandan troops on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The call for mobilization must therefore have other motives, not the stated ones.

2. The ex-FAR/Interahamwe forces are present and active in massive numbers on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the President knows this. Their aim is to continue to launch attacks on Rwanda, and kill Rwandans, operating from their bases on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. If the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo does not remove the threat of this genocidal force to Rwanda from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in respect of her engagements under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement of 1999, the Pretoria Agreement, and other agreements, including the most recent Dar es Salaam declaration, then Rwanda reserves the right to respond as she deems fit in defence of her people, her sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

3. Rwanda is surprised that the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has never publicly called on the Congolese people to mobilize against the ex-FAR/Interahamwe. We call on him to do so. The refusal to do that would simply continue to suggest that, for the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, these Rwandan genocidal forces are welcome and acceptable in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

4. Rwanda has fulfilled all her obligations under all the agreements she has signed with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. However, for five years now, since the Lusaka Agreement, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has not fulfilled her obligation to disarm and demobilize the genocidal forces on her territory. It is not enough to just make declarations. Actions must and should be taken.

5. During the last five years, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made detailed plans to disarm these groups. These plans and timetables are annexes to the Lusaka and Pretoria Agreements. They have never been carried out. Elaboration of new plans will not solve the problem unless the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is determined to act. If the Government determines to act today, then the problem will be solved.

6. The President claims Rwanda wants to dominate Congo, occupy it, and exploit its resources. This is simply not true. The only problem between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the presence of ex-FAR/Interahamwe on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Democratic Republic of the Congo should deal with this issue instead of looking for red herrings and unsubstantiated excuses. If the wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is

so easy to exploit, why is that country one of the poorest nations in the world? And how come ordinary Congolese are as poor as ordinary Rwandans? That is the question that the President should answer.

7. Rwanda had hoped that the President would provide an answer from the FDLR (ex-FAR/Interahamwe) public declarations that they were invited to the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the President himself. His silence on this crucial issue speaks volumes.

8. Rwanda invites the leadership of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to desist from any violent action based on manipulation and misinformation from a neighbouring country.

9. Finally, Rwanda is not an enemy of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or her people, despite the very belligerent attitude and declarations by the leadership of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.